CLAIMS

1.   A method for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of retrieval objects; and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object map generation step of generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step, a second position deriving step of deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and retrieval object retrieving step of retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving step with reference to said retrieval object map.

2.   A retrieving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving step in said virtual space

5 with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

3.   A retrieving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line

10 connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving step and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said retrieving object in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending

15 order.

4.   A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said retrieval object is data including said expressing word, and said method comprises expression word

20 extracting step of extracting said expression word from said retrieval object and expression word correspondence step of storing said retrieval object with correspondence with the expression word extracted in said expression word extracting step.

25

5.   A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said retrieval objects are stored with attribute

information indicative of attributes of said retrieval object,

said method comprises second retrieval object retrieving step of retrieving retrieval object corresponding to attribute information matching with a given attribute information among

5   said plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the given attribute information,

said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among retrieval objects retrieved at

10   said second retrieval object retrieving step.

6.   A system for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word,

15   comprising:

expression word map storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged,

20   retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of retrieving objects, first position deriving means for deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object

25   map generation means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position

deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word and retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous

5   image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said retrieval object map.

10   7.   A retrieving system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving means in said virtual space with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

15

8.   A retrieving system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said

20   second position deriving means and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said retrieving object in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said retrieval object map.

25   9.   A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said retrieval object is data including said expressing word, and

said system comprises expression word extracting means for extracting said expression word from said retrieval object and expression word correspondence means for storing said retrieval object with correspondence with the expression word

5 extracted in said expression word extracting means.

10. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein said retrieval objects are stored with attribute information indicative of attributes of said retrieval object,

10 said system comprises second retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving retrieval object corresponding to attribute information matching with a given attribute information among said plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the given attribute information,

15 said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among retrieval objects retrieved by said retrieval object retrieving means.

20 11. A retrieving program for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word,

for a computer comprising expression word map storage

25 means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association

of those sensuous images are arranged, retrieval object storage

means for storing said plurality of retrieving objects,

said program making to execute a process realized by first

position deriving means for deriving the expression word

5   corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the

expression word contained in each of said retrieving object

in said virtual space, a retrieving object map generation means

for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective

retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position

10   derived at said first position deriving means, a second position

deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word

on said virtual space with reference to said expression word,

and retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving the

retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image

15   of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects

on the basis of the position derived at said second position

deriving means with reference to said retrieval object map.

12.   A method for generating a retrieval object map to be used

20   for a method of retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image

meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality

of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word

using said retrieval object map, in which a plurality of

expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects

25   on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those

sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of

expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of retrieval objects with correspondence to said expression words; and

5   and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, and a retrieving object map generation step of generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

15 13.   A retrieval object map generating method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said retrieval object is stored with correspondence with a retrieval object describing document as descriptive text for said retrieval object and describing sensuous image of said retrieval object and a supplementary document including said expression word supplementing said retrieval object descriptive document,

said method comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said retrieval object descriptive document and said supplementary document corresponding to said retrieval object with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position

of the expression word extracted at said expression word
extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

14.   A retrieval object map generating method as set forth
in claim 13, wherein each of said retrieval objects is stored
with correspondence with an attribute information indicative
of said retrieval object in addition to said retrieval object
descriptive object and said supplementary document.

15.   A system for generating a retrieval object map to be used
for a system of retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image
meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality
of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word
using said retrieval object map, in which a plurality of
expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects
on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those
sensuous images are arranged, comprising:
        expression word storage means for storing an expression
word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing
sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending
upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged,
retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of
retrieval objects with correspondence to said expression words,
a first position deriving means for deriving the expression
word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the
expression word contained in each of said retrieving object
in said virtual space, and a retrieving object map generation

means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

5   16. A retrieval object map generating system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said retrieval object storage means stores each of said retrieval object with correspondence with a retrieval object describing document as descriptive text for said retrieval object and describing sensuous image of said

10   retrieval object and a supplementary document including said expression word supplementing said retrieval object descriptive document,

said system comprises expression word extracting means for extracting said expression word from said retrieval object

15   descriptive document and said supplementary document corresponding to said retrieval object with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving means derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word

20   extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

17. A retrieval object map generating system as set forth in claim 16, wherein each of said retrieval objects is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative

25   of said retrieval object in addition to said retrieval object descriptive object and said supplementary document.

18.   A method for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image
meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality
of graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word,
comprising:

5   storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of
expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images
on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those
sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of
graphic images; and

10   including a first position deriving step of deriving the
expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position
of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image
in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation step of
generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic
15   images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived
at said first position deriving step, a second position deriving
step of deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual
space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image
retrieving step of retrieving the graphic image of sensuous
20   image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among
a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived
at said second position deriving step with reference to said
graphic image map.

25   19.   A retrieving method as set forth in claim 18, wherein
said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image
at a position having smaller distance to a position derived

at said second position deriving step in said virtual space with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

20.　A retrieving method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving step and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said graphic image in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

21.　A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 18 to 20, wherein each of said graphic image is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of attribute of said graphic image,

said method comprises second graphic image retrieving step of retrieving graphic image corresponding to attribute information matching with a given attribute information among said plurality of graphic images on the basis of the given attribute information,

said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among graphic images retrieved at said second graphic image retrieving step.

22.　A system for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image

meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

expression word map storage means for storing an expression

5   word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images, first position deriving means for deriving the

10   expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation means for generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position

15   derived at said first position deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image retrieving means for retrieving the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said

20   retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said graphic image map.

23.   A retrieving system as set forth in claim 22, wherein

25   said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving means in said virtual space

with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

24.   A retrieving system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image

5   at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving means and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said graphic image in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space,

10   with reference to said graphic image map.

25.   A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims 22 to 24, wherein said graphic images are stored with attribute information indicative of attributes of said graphic image,

15   said system comprises second graphic image retrieving means for retrieving graphic image corresponding to attribute information matching with a given attribute information among said plurality of graphic images on the basis of the given attribute information,

20   said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among graphic images retrieved at said second graphic image retrieving means.

25   26.   A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 22 to 25, which is applied for retrieval of hair style graphic images expressing hair styles.

27.   A retrieving method as set forth in claim 26, wherein said virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis,

5   said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of smart as quantified on the other direction

          the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
10   femininity as quantified on the other direction

28.   A retrieving method as set forth in claim 26, wherein said virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis,

15   said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of smart as quantified on the other direction

          the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
20   light as quantified on the other direction

29.   A graphic image retrieving program for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given
25   retrieving word, comprising:

          for a computer comprising expression word map storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality

of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images,

5   said program making to execute a process realized by first position deriving means for deriving the expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation means for generating a

10 graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image

15 retrieving means for retrieving the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said graphic image map.

20

30.   A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis

25 of given retrieving word,

     a storing expression word map, in which a plurality of expression words expressing sensuous images of hair style

graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

5   said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
10   femininity as quantified on the other direction.

31.   A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of
15   hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis of given retrieving word,

a storing expression word map, in which a plurality of expression words expressing sensuous images of hair style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system
20   having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
25   smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of

light as quantified on the other direction.

32.   A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer,
retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting

5   with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of
hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis
of given retrieving word,

a storing graphic image map, in which a plurality of hair
style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate

10 system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to
said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the
sensuous images,

said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of

15 smart as quantified on the other direction
the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
femininity as quantified on the other direction.

20 33.   A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer
retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting
with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of
hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis
of given retrieving word,

25   a storing graphic image map, in which a plurality of hair
style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate
system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to

said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the

sensuous images,

said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic

as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of

5   smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy

c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of

light as quantified on the other direction

10   34.   A method for generating a graphic image map to be used

for a method of retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting

with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of

graphic images to be retrieval objects on the basis of a given

retrieving word using said graphic image map, in which a plurality

15   of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images

on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those

sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of

expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images

20   on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those

sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of

graphic images with correspondence to said expression words;

and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the

25   expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position

of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image

in said virtual space, and a graphic image map generation step

of generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

5   35.   A graphic image map generating method as set forth in claim 34, wherein said graphic image is stored with correspondence with a graphic image describing document as descriptive text for said graphic image and describing sensuous image of said graphic image and a supplementary document

10   including said expression word supplementing said graphic image descriptive document,

said method comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said graphic image descriptive document and said supplementary document

15   corresponding to said graphic image with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

20

36.   A graphic image map generating method as set forth in claim 35, wherein each of said graphic images is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said graphic image in addition to said graphic image descriptive

25   object and said supplementary document.

37.   A system for generating a graphic image map to be used

for a system of retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images to be graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word using said graphic image map, in which a plurality

5   of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

expression word storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing

10   sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images with correspondence to said expression words, a first position deriving means for deriving the expression word

15   corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, and a graphic image map generation means for generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said

20   first position deriving step.

38.   A graphic image map generating system as set forth in claim 37, wherein said graphic image is stored with correspondence with a graphic image describing document as

25   descriptive text for said graphic image and describing sensuous image of said graphic image and a supplementary document including said expression word supplementing said graphic image

descriptive document,

said system comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said graphic image descriptive document and said supplementary document

5 corresponding to said graphic image with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

10

39. A graphic image map generating system as set forth in claim 38, wherein each of said graphic images is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said graphic image in addition to said graphic image descriptive

15 object and said supplementary document.